

XII. *Description of the Larva and Pupa of Papilio homerus*, Fab. By CHARLES B. TAYLOR, F.E.S.

[Read February 28th, 1894.]

ABOUT two or three years ago, a lady residing in the Bath district of the Parish of Saint Thomas, and a diligent collector of insects, discovered seven examples of a large Caterpillar of a beautiful green colour, on a tree bearing large subovate glossy green leaves (botanical name unknown) growing near a certain locality known as the "Fountain Road." Of these she was good enough to send me four specimens, which unfortunately, however, never reached my hands, as they were lost in transit, while I shortly afterwards heard that the other three examples had died before assuming the pupal state, as a result of confinement and want of proper attention. Towards the middle of last year Mrs. Swainson found another of these Caterpillars, which she sent down to the Museum of the Jamaica Institute for identification. It arrived at a time when there was no experienced Entomologist in charge (the post of Curator being then temporarily vacant), but on seeing it I ventured to express the belief that it was the larva of *P. homerus*. This individual also died during the process of casting the larval skin. Through the kindness of Lady Blake I was enabled to make a special expedition to Bath during November last, in search of this larva, and the day after my arrival (the 27th) had the good fortune to find an almost full-fed specimen, which developed a male *homerus* on the 29th of December following. It is worthy of note that all these Caterpillars were obtained from the same tree, notwithstanding that there were many others of the same species in the immediate neighbourhood.

LARVA. Length about $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches, general appearance incrassated, the body being thickest from the 3rd to the 5th segments, from

thence tapering gradually to the anal extremity, which is abruptly truncated. Head small, pale ochreous or brown, deflected, and, when the larva is at rest, almost completely obscured by a projection of the anterior margin of the 1st segment.

Colour protective, harmonizing closely with the tint of the leaf of the food plant. Upper surface a rich deep chrome-green extending down to about the spiracular region, where it terminates with a more or less irregular or sinuous outline, most pronounced towards the posterior segments, where the green is sharply divided from the colour of the under surface by a narrow edging of white. 1st segment with a short transverse dorsal bar of pale dun or ochreous brown; a broad, curved band of the same colour, bearing a few lines and spots of black, runs in a posterior direction across the dorsal surface of the 3rd segment, and down to the sides of the 4th segment, where, curving slightly upwards, it ends in club-shaped dilations, enclosing a simple ocellus coloured as follows: On a comma-shaped ground patch of black is drawn a rather broad ring of dun, bordered below with bluish-grey followed by a black iris, with a bluish-white pupil. Across the posterior margin of the 5th segment is drawn a most conspicuous luniform stripe of white, having a raised appearance, as if laid on with several coats of body colour, and which is in turn marked with little transverse bars of pale lavender, five in all; the horns of the crescent have this time a slightly anterior direction, and terminate at the sides between the 4th and 5th segments just at the junction of the green with the brown of the under surface.

Anterior margin of the fifth segment, immediately in front of the white stripe, finely irrorated with white; between the 5th and 6th segments is a broad transverse band of deep black, more or less completely hidden by the segmental fold, except when the larva is in motion, when it is very conspicuous. Ventral surface, including abdominal legs, dull dark brown. A broad band of this colour, suffused with a lavender-grey tint, bearing a few scattered spots of blue-grey, and having a very irregular or jagged outline, is continued obliquely upwards in a posterior direction from the 8th segment, and, meeting on the dorsal surface of the 10th segment, descends again, obliquely, narrowing rapidly however before joining the brown of the under surface, thus enclosing an irregular diamond-shaped patch of green. Segmental folds strongly marked on the ventral surface.

PUPA, of usual shape, not greatly angulated. Colour, wholly dark wood-brown, with two pairs of white tubercles on the dorsal surface of the middle abdominal segments.